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14 MAY 63

BOOK MESSAGE AS READER

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PORTFOLIO

CHIEF C.

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BELI LOND ANNA ADDI BERN MADR ANKA ALG I BIEN BOHN MARI
HUNI BACH KHAR CAHA COPE MASO BETR LEOP MEXY PROB KEND
DANA RABA RIOD HAGU VIEN KAHU TPLI SAGO HEID ATHE JIDO
TWIN CYRU TERE [CNEB] OSLO CAIR MOGA PSCY GIVVA BOME
FRAN LIEB

13-4 14-4

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NEAR EAST - AFRICA BRANCH

(NOFORN IN SLANTS. REMAINING INFO UNRELEASABLE TO LIAISON.)

1. ALGERIA-MOROCCO: THE CEASE-FIRE WHICH WAS TO HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED 1 NOV BECAME EFFECTIVE 4 NOV WITH ARRIVAL OF A MALIAN OBSERVER AT THE FRONT. A SECOND MALIAN OFFICER AND TWO ETHIOPIAN OBSERVERS APPARENTLY ARE STILL TO COME.

//ETHIOPIAN EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE HAS AGAIN CONTACTED KING
HASSEAN AND PRESIDENT SIRI BELLA TO URGE THEM TO OBTAIN THE CEASE-
FIRE. HE INFORMED THEM THE AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE
PROBABLY WOULD BE CONVENED IN ADDIS ABABA IN TWO WEEKS, THE DELAY
BEING DUE TO SLOWNESS OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ACCEPTANCES.// THE
FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION TO FIX RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THE HOSTILITIES AND TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR A SETTLEMENT.

2. JORDAN FOLLOWING CABINET CHANGES 31 OCT KING HUSAYN
STILL HOPES TO PERSUADE OPPOSITION ELEMENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
GOVERNMENT

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THUS HE HOPES TO INCREASE THE REGIME'S POPULARITY AND REDUCE THE DISRUPTIVE INFLUENCE OF OPPOSITION LEADERS. HE APPARENTLY ALSO BELIEVES APPOINTMENT OF SUCH "NATIONALIST" ELEMENTS TO THE CABINET, WOULD IMPROVE PROSPECTS FOR A JORDANIAN-EGYPTIAN RAPPROCHEMENT. HUSAYN IS ANXIOUS TO ACHIEVE AN UNDERSTANDING WITH CAIRO BECAUSE OF HIS CONCERN OVER WHAT HE REGARDS AS A MORE IMMEDIATE THREAT TO JORDAN FROM THE BAATHIST REGIMES IN DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD.

HUSAYN'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE OPPOSITION RECENTLY HAVE FOCUSED ON SULEYMAN NABULSI A PRO-NASIR FORMER PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF THE OUTLAWED NATIONAL SOCIALIST PARTY. SO FAR THESE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL PROBABLY BECAUSE NABULSI AND HIS PARTY COLLEAGUES WANT MORE REPRESENTATION THAN HUSAYN IS PREPARED TO GRANT THEM.

ON 31 OCT THE KING APPOINTED NABULSI TO THE SENATE. CABINET CHANGES ANNOUNCED THE SAME DAY DO NOT ESSENTIALLY CHANGE THE CHARACTER OF THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT AND PROBABLY WILL BE RECEIVED WITH INDIFFERENCE BY THE JORDANIAN PUBLIC. THE RESIGNATION OF THREE MEMBERS OF THE PREVIOUS CABINET AND THE OUT-OF-TOWN APPOINTMENTS, ACCOMPANIED

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SOME RESHUFFLING OF RESPONSIBILITIES, MAY CONSTITUTE AN IMPROVEMENT IN TERMS OF COMPETENCE AND INTEGRITY. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHICH PRIME MINISTER SHARIF HUSAYN FORMERLY HEADED, PROBABLY WILL NOW HAVE FIRMER LEADERSHIP UNDER ABDUL ATALLAH, A PROMINENT AND RESPECTED LAWYER AND BANKER FROM JERUSALEM. TWO OF THE OTHER APPOINTMENTS WILL REPLACE MINISTERS WHO HAVE BEEN SUSPECTED OF CORRUPTION. (CONF)

3. SYRIA: THE BAATHIST REGIME'S SOCIALIST MEASURES AND ITS PURGES OF NON-BAATHIST MILITARY AND CIVIL SERVANTS ARE RAPIDLY ANTAGONIZING IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF SYRIAN SOCIETY.

SYRIA'S INFLUENTIAL UPPER AND MIDDLE CLASSES HAVE BEEN ALIENATED BY THE REGIME'S RECENT ATTACK ON THE "BOURGEOISIE" AND BY ITS DECLARED INTENTION TO ELIMINATE PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTICE TO "COLLECTIVIZE" FARMING AND TO DEVELOP WORKER ADMINISTRATION OF INDUSTRY. THEY HAD ALREADY BEEN OFFENDED BY EARLIER RESTRICTIONS ON PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND BY A RECENT REDUCTION IN GOVERNMENT SALARIES.

ALTHOUGH THE REGIME IS MAKING A STRONG BID FOR SUPPORT OF SYRIA'S PEASANTS AND WORKERS THESE ELEMENTS HAVE TRADITIONALLY PLAYED ONLY

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A MINOR ROLE IN SYRIAN POLITICS.

A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF WELL-EDUCATED AND TECHNICALLY TRAINED SYRIANS ARE SEEKING WAYS TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. THEIR DEPARTURE COULD CRIPPLE THE BAATHIST EFFORT TO IMPLEMENT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REFORMS.

THERE IS NO INDICATION THE DISCONTENTED MEMBERS OF THE UPPER OR MIDDLE CLASSES ARE FORMING AN EFFECTIVE ORGANIZED OPPOSITION TO THE REGIME. EXTENSIVE PURGING OF NON-BAATHIST ARMY OFFICERS HAS ALIENATED ANOTHER IMPORTANT GROUP WHICH COULD POSE A SERIOUS POTENTIAL THREAT TO CONTINUED BAATHIST RULE. (CONT)

END OF MESSAGE

Yours,

[Signature]

J. T.